THE LADDER

1960

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February 1960

purpose of the

Daughters of BILITIS

A WOMEN'S ORGANIZATION FOR THE PURPOSE OF PROMOTING THE INTEGRATION OF THE HOMOSEXUAL INTO SOCIETY BY:

1. Education of the variant, with particular emphasis on the psychological, physiological and sociological aspects, to enable her to understand herself and make her adjustment to society in all its social, civic and economic implications—this to be accomplished by establishing and maintaining as complete a library as possible of both fiction and non-fiction literature on the sex deviant theme; by sponsoring public discussions on pertinent subjects to be conducted by leading members of the legal, psychiatric, religious and other professions; by advocating a mode of behavior and dress acceptable to society.

2. Education of the public at large through acceptance first of the individual, leading to an eventual breakdown of erroneous taboos and prejudices; through public discussion meetings aforementioned; through dissemination of educational literature on the homosexual theme.

3. Participation in research projects by duly authorized and responsible psychologists, sociologists and other such experts directed towards further knowledge of the homosexual.

4. Investigation of the penal code as it pertains to the homosexual, proposal of changes to provide an equitable handling of cases involving this minority group, and promotion of these changes through due process of law in the state legislatures.

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THE LADDER is regarded as a sounding board for various points of view on the homophile and related subjects and does not necessarily reflect the opinion of the organization.

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COVER BY TERI RICHARDS

EDITORIAL

Another Milestone Coming

THE WEEKEND OF MAY 27-30 THIS YEAR MARKS ANOTHER MILESTONE IN THE PROGRESS OF DOB. THAT IS THE WEEKEND OF OUR FIRST NATIONAL CONVENTION WHICH WILL BE HELD AT THE WHITCOMB HOTEL IN SAN FRANCISCO.

FOUR YEARS AGO WHEN WE STARTED PUBLICATION OF THE LADDER WE TOOK A "GO FOR BROKE" ATTITUDE - EITHER THIS WOULD MAKE THE ORGANIZATION OR BREAK IT. WELL, WE HAVEN'T BROKEN YET.

IN A WAY, THIS FIRST CONVENTION IS A "GO FOR BROKE" AFFAIR. WE HAVE TAKEN THE PENTHOUSE OF THE WHITCOMB HOTEL - A GLASSED IN ROOM AFFORDING A SUMPTUOUS VIEW OF "THE CITY". TO GET THIS WE HAVE GUARANTEED AN ATTENDANCE AT BOTH THE LUNCHEON AND BANQUET OF 100 PERSONS. THIS IS A HIGH FIGURE FOR HOMOPHILE CONVENTIONS - WE DOUBT IF EITHER MATTACHINE OR ONE HAVE ATTAINED THIS ATTENDANCE OFTEN, IF EVER. BUT WE THINK THE WOMEN CAN DO IT! (WITH THE HELP OF THE MEN.)

A TENTATIVE SCHEDULE OF EVENTS INCLUDES:

FRIDAY EVENING, MAY 27 - INFORMAL RECEPTION FOR OUT-OF-TOWN GUESTS. 8 P.M TIL? AT THE HOME OF PHYLLIS LYON AND DEL MARTIN, 651 DUNCAN STREET.

SATURDAY, MAY 28 - FULL DAY'S ACTIVITIES INCLUDING LUNCHEON, COCKTAIL HOUR AND BANQUET AS WELL AS MORNING AND AFTERNOON LECTURE AND DISCUSSION SESSIONS. VISTA ROOM, WHITCOMB HOTEL.

THEME: A LOOK AT THE LESBIAN.

TENTATIVE PROGRAM:

REPORT FROM RESEARCH COMMITTEE: COMPARISON BETWEEN THE MALE AND FEMALE HOMOSEXUAL BASED ON THE QUESTIONNAIRES DISTRIBUTED

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 20)

SEQUEL TO 'GAY' BAR PROBLEM

OH, BITTER DICTA!

A CASE WON - AND LOST

Announcements in California Newspapers on December 25, 1959, indicated that old St. Nick (in the guise of the State Supreme Court) had not forgotten the homophile. The Court had rendered a favorable decision in the Vallerga case (see THE LADDER, December, 1959: The 'Gay' Bar - Whose Problem Is It?), declaring that Section 24200(e) of the California Business and Professional Code "purports to authorize revocation of a license without requiring anything more to be shown than that the premises are a resort for certain classes of persons, and as such is unconstitutional for the reasons set forth in the Stoumen case." (The 1951 opinion in the Stoumen case held that the mere congregation of homosexuals in a tavern did not warrant disciplinary action in the absence of illegal or immoral acts.)

The newspapers reported that agents of the State Alcoholic Beverage Control Department must prove there have been "immoral acts" on the premises before revoking bar licenses and that Norbert Falvey, supervising control officer in the Bay Area, said that the court decision meant the department henceforth "cannot touch" a number of San Francisco taverns popular with male and female homosexuals.

But --

The rejoicing was short lived. The opinion proved to be a bitter victory. For the Supreme Court in its decision went on to say:

"It is suggested that the record in the present case justified a conclusion that the continuance of the license will be 'contrary to public welfare and morals' and that the revocation thereof can be justified on constitutional grounds. ... Conduct which may fall short of aggressive and uninhi-

bited participation in fulfilling the sexual urges of homosexuals reported in some instances ... may nevertheless offend good morals and decency by displays in public which do no more than manifest such urges. This is not to say that homosexuals might properly be held to a higher degree of moral conduct than are heterosexuals. But any public display which manifests sexual desires, whether thay be heterosexual or homosexual in nature, may, and historically have been, suppressed and regulated in a moral society."

While the Appellate Court had held that displays put into evidence in the Vallerga case (see pages 6 and 7 - December LADDER) merely indicated that the patrons were homosexual, the Supreme Court stated, "The foregoing is sufficient evidence of a display of sexual desires and urges which, when made in a public place as a continuing course of conduct, could reasonably be found by the trier of fact to be 'contrary to public welfare or morals.'"

The higher court thus upheld the Appellate Court's decision of the Vallerga case merely because it had been tried on the basis of the bar being "a resort for homosexuals", but indicated that the license could have been revoked had the case been tried under Section 22, Article XX of the State Constitution which "vests the Department of Alcoholic Beverage Control with authority to institute disciplinary proceedings against a licensee and to revoke his license upon determination 'for good cause' that the continuance of such license would be 'contrary to public welfare or morals'."

RULING HELD THREAT TO ALL BARS

Attorney Morris Lowenthal protested that if the statement is accepted as a law enforcement standard "every bar in California will become vulnerable, some time or another, to license revocation proceedings." He declared also that the decision might be used for justification for censorship of magazines, plays and movies and for the closing of night clubs and other places of entertainment.

The attorney filed a petition for modification of the opinion without change in the judgment and petition for rehearing on the grounds that no previous reference to "con-

stitutional grounds" for revocation of the Vallerga license had been suggested by either the respondents or the appellants in the case; novel, unprecedented and important but erroneous principles of law and prejudicial legal conclusions were enunciated in the opinion; no prior opportunity was afforded petitioners to argue the new concepts; the dicta appears to have substituted for the Stoumen v. Reilly standard a brand new test never heretofore asserted in California or the United States, namely proof of a "display of sexual desires and urges"; the new standard is constitutionally invalid by reason of indefiniteness of meaning and absence of qualifying limitations relating to intent, manner, degree, extent and effect of display; vesting exclusive authority in the Department of Alcoholic Beverage Control as "keeper of the morals" of bar patrons, and particularly of homosexuals, is indicated from the dicta; the opinion fallaciously equates evidence of homosexuality or the homosexual nature of the patrons with proof of sexual desires and urges in direct contradiction to the Stoumen v. Reilly decision, which is thereby undermined.

DICTA CANNOT BE RECONCILED WITH STOUMEN DECISION

In the petition presented to the higher court, Lowenthal stated, "This transposition from 'illegal or immoral acts' to 'any public display of sexual desires or urges' could only be justified on the entirely erroneous and fallacious assumption that all such displays (regardless of the intent, manner, extent or degree of the display and the effect of performance on others) are synonymous with, and are per se, 'immoral conduct' or 'immoral acts.' Such an assumption confuses 'sin', or conduct which offends only from the strictly orthodox religious point of view, with conduct which is in fact and in law 'illegal or immoral' - the standard or test required by Stoumen v. Reilly."

MEANING OF 'PUBLIC DISPLAY OF SEXUAL URGES AND DESIRES'

Using the process of reasoning found in the Vallerga dicta, Mr. Lowenthal continued, "In the general category of 'public displays of sexual urges or desires' must necessarily be included: certain accepted forms of dancing (such as 'rock and roll'); such acts as a man whistling or staring

at an attractive woman; a woman wearing a bikini at a public beach, or a low-cut dress (with or without a brassiere) or extremely tight-fitting clothes at a public place; a woman walking in a sexy manner; any flirtation (by conversation, expressions of the face, movement of the eyes, etc.), exchange of sexy jokes and banter and repartee between mixed couples in a public place, including a bar; and finally, holding hands, kissing, 'necking' and other similar acts of affection (frequently accompanied by conversations relating to past or anticipated romantic experiences) which customarily occur (in every American town, city and hamlet) in almost every bar, public theatre, park, beach, and public means of transportation."

Mr. Lowenthal declared, "Even if the Vallerga dicta were modified so as to be limited to places that sell intoxicating liquor (which would include night clubs, hotels, restaurants, bars and various other places of public accommodation and entertainment), the situation would be the same. In practically all such public places, men will be found paired off with women (or seeking such a result), whether their own spouse, 'girl friend', some one else's spouse, or just a 'pickup' - because they find a sexual attraction to each other which, particularly under the stimulus of a few drinks, will be expressed by acts of affection (holding hands, kissing, embracing, or discussing - 'in whispered tones' or otherwise - their mutual romantic interests). If such mild conduct by mixed (heterosexual) couples (clearly 'a public display of sexual urges and desires under the Vallerga process of reasoning but falling short of any lewd, aggressive or uninhibited misconduct) constitutes sufficient or any evidence upon which revocation proceedings may be successfully initiated against the bar owner, then every bar, night club and places of entertainment in California could be closed or subjected to threat of closure and other harrassments."

The petition continued, "If the examples appearing in the Vallerga opinion (petting up, dressing in mannish attire, using a rest toom, etc.) are accepted as accurate examples of 'displays of sexual desires or urges', it is obvious that the standard is too nebulous and vague for anyone to draw the line - particularly since the number of alleged 'public displays of sexual desires or urges' that occur

in the daily experience of human beings run into astronominal figures."

THE PUBLIC WASN'T OFFENDED!

"The Vallerga Opinion seems to overlook entirely the fact that in a bar catering exclusively to homosexuals, acts of the patrons which simply demonstrate their homosexual tendencies without more (i.e., without overt immoral conduct) could not possibly offend other homosexuals present at the time. Some heterosexual persons are easily offended by the mere presence (without any conduct) of persons they believe to be homosexuals, but the sensitivity of such persons is not the standard or guide to be applied to the conduct of homosexuals gathering together in a bar catering exclusively to homosexuals not offended by the presence of persons with similar tendencies.

"For this reason alone the courts should encourage the continuance, rather than authorize the destruction, of such so-called 'gay bars. With the demise of the latter, persons of homosexual tendencies will simply be required to satisfy their thirst for liquor in so-called 'heterosexual' neighborhood bars where some person (fortunately not a majority) may be offended and find it undesirable and discomforting and may react accordingly. So repression breeds either more repression or injurious consequences to innocent persons."

DOUBLE STANDARD INVOKED

Attorney Lowenthal pointed out too, "If, as the Vallerga dicta seems to indicate, homosexuals must wear a straightjacket and not allow themselves to betray by any word, look, dress, social attitude or mannerism, that they are homosexuals, then it is clear that a higher standard of moral conduct is required of them than is required of heterosexuals.

"... The Vallerga dicta on this subject is, in real effect,

(continued on page 19)

The Invisible Wall

By Jill Fox

Dear Pamela:

You have always let me use you as a sounding board, so I hope you won't mind if I do so in this case. I am very concerned with the "problem" of homosexuality. I doubt, however, that it would be much of a problem if it weren't for heterosexuals. That statement may indicate group disloyalty. Such is not the case, but I do get awfully depressed when I see people needlessly hurt.

Let me tell you my story: Ellis and Rusty, two girls who are homosexuals, moved into our neighborhood. They are both college graduates, have good jobs, are interesting people. They are an asset to the community, although most people around here are too prejudiced to realize it. One stupid (or shall I be charitable and say misinformed) person tried to get up a petition to drive them out. I guess the world hasn't progressed as far from the "witch" burning days as it thinks it has. The ironic part is that the petition instigator is a person with nothing to contribute to the community but idle gossip.

We have a pretty rough bunch of teen-agers here, and Ricky, their leader, set out to give Ellis and Rusty a real bad time. He slashed their tires, made nasty remarks and did his best to make them as miserable as possible. Luckily I had been able to establish a rapport, of sorts, with Ricky and had made considerable progress with him -- he no longer used a zip gun or stole things from my store. However, it was almost the end of our friendship when I attempted to interfere in his "persecution campaign." He informed me, in no uncertain terms, that he would say whatever he pleased to those "damn queers." I blew my top. I told him he couldn't talk like that about my friends, so he slammed the door as he left.

After being ignored for a couple of weeks I sent a note asking Ricky to come to see me. Judging from the speed

with which he arrived, I surmised only his stubborn pride had kept him away so long. I didn't know how I was going to explain homosexuality to him, especially when I knew so little about it myself. I did know that it was terribly important that somehow I find the right words.

"Ricky," I confessed, "I really don't know a great deal more about homosexuals than you do, but let's sit down and see if we can sort of talk our way through to an understanding." Ricky agreed, and when we were comfortably seated I said, "First of all, I think you should know that all girls who dress in a masculine manner are not necessarily homosexuals -- they may just find this clothing more comfortable. However, assuming that Ellis and Rusty are homosexuals, why should it be so important to you?"

"Aw nuts, it's not important to me," answered Ricky.

"Well," I insisted, "it must be, or you wouldn't shout 'here come Mr. and Mrs. Queer' whenever you see them. Do you like that word?"

He answered me rather sullenly, "All the guys say it. That's the word for those kind of people, and you know it."

"No," I said, "I don't know that at all. I do know that it is the name we heterosexuals have given to them. We are the ones who have made it an ugly word. Tell me this," I continued, "would you like me to yell 'there goes the Wop' when you pass by?"

"Heck no!" he answered me vehemently, "I wouldn't like it at all."

"Well then, Ricky," and I was really getting warmed up now. "You are an Italian you know, yet you don't want a label. I feel very sure the only label homosexuals want is that of -- human being. You know, Rick, all people experience the same emotions. Ellis and Rusty can love, hate, be happy, sad, angry -- just as we do; they can also get their feelings hurt. I'll never believe it is right for any human being to deliberately be cruel to another. When I first opened this store, you and your gang were going to

break all my windows. Why did you change your mind?"

Ricky answered quickly, "But that was before I knew you, Joannie. I changed my mind because you were nice to me. You knew that my Mom couldn't speak English or understand how kids here feel and act. You always answered my questions; you trusted me, and you didn't yell at me----you just liked me."

"Ricky" I said quickly, "I wonder why you haven't given Ellis and Rusty the same chance you gave me----the chance to become acquainted. I feel sure there are many things you could learn from them that I know nothing about---- politics, sports, cars, to name a few -- all things you are interested in."

Ricky, blushing a bright crimson, stared at a spot on the wall. Finally he blurted out---"Well, maybe they do know a lot of things, but gee, Joannie, they are different! You know---the sex part."

"Oh Lord," I silently and sincerely prayed, "Here I am with a chance to break down a little of the invisible wall of misunderstanding and prejudice that separates us from homosexuals. I could sure use some help about now, Lord." I guess he doesn't like the wall either, because the words came to me.

"Different?" I cried, "why of course their sex life is different. I don't suppose every heterosexual couple have exactly the same sexual relationships either, Rick. Happiness is what counts. It's just as simple as that--the right of each individual to find his own happiness in this world. You stress difference, Ricky, yet your three best friends all have different colored skins. You don't condemn them for this; why condemn a person whose sex life may be somewhat different? Sex is a very private thing. It should only concern society when a child is involved. Look at it this way, Ricky, you say 'ee-ther'--I say 'eye-ther'. The spelling is the same---it's just a preference. Homosexuality is a preference too. You don't hate me because I prefer to say 'eye-ther'; why hate two real nice people because they prefer each other? I don't think we need concern ourselves as to the reasons for this

preference. Many famous 'authorities are still in disagreement about it. I think it would be more to the point if you tried to help your friends to also understand people who are 'different'."

It was a thoughtful boy who left my house that day, Pam. I have reason to think that he did talk to his friends --- I hope so. It's the adults that discourage me. They very gilbly say "Live and let live," but do they? No! They attack anything different. They are afraid of the unknown. They are afraid to venture beyond that invisible wall ---- afraid to meet the people who dwell there. Occasionally you may find a few with a bit more courage, but most of these are beset with that commonest of sins--indifference. How, then, I ask you, do you break down a wall composed of apathy and ignorance! The solution must lie with the youth of today who are the men and women of tomorrow. That's a tired old cliche I know, but nonetheless true.

You see, Pam, Ellis and Rusty have now opened their door wide to the neighborhood's "tough" teens, who are also seeking understanding and acceptance. The going isn't always easy, but there is a growing trust gradually developing on both sides. I hopefully wait for the day when parents will follow their children's footsteps to that door, and welcome their neighbors, Ellis and Rusty--an asset to any community.

Your loving friend,
Joannie

ON GIVING A GOLD HEART

DEAR NECROMANCER, MY BETTER PART
LET THIS SELF, BASE METAL, THIS SPURIOUS ONE,
IN YOUR LOVE'S CRUCIBLE
A RARITY BECOME,
TRANSFORM MY LADEN, LEADEN HEART,
I CHANGE BENEATH YOUR GAZE,
I GLEAM, I GLOW.
THIS TINY GOLDEN HEART,
LET IT GLEAM SO.

R. A. LORENCE

Lesbian Literature in 1959

By Gene Damon

In the March, 1958, issue of THE LADDER the article "Time Has Brought A Change" recorded a total of 19 titles n in the year 1957. This later grew to 24 Lesbian titles in all. The article "The Lesbian In Contemporary Literature" in THE LADDER, February, 1959, recorded 19 new titles for 1958 and within two months of the article's appearance the total had grown to 30. At the time this seemed to be astounding but today these figures seem small beside the total of 52 novels dealing with lesbianism in 1959.

Of the 52 titles, 18 are hardback books, the other 34 are paperback originals. Without exception the 18 hardback novels were ither sympathetic to Lesbianism or pointed no moral of any kind. The authors represented were among the better novelists and in most cases the books fared well in the hands of reviewers. Of special mention and interest, THE SENSUALISTS by Ben Hecht, THE HOUSE IN THE MULBERRY TREE by Zena Garrett, BLACKBERRY WILDERNESS by Sylvia Berkman, THE LION HOUSE by Marjorie Lee, THE HAUNTING OF HILL HOUSE by Shirley Jackson, and THE GOLDEN CAGE by Tereska Torres.

The 34 Paperback originals ranged from nearly pornographic tripe to lyric and beautiful writing. Of the 34, 14 were sympathetic and six pointed no moral or were satirical. This leaves only 14 unsympathetic titles out of the entire 52 books. Among the paperbacks deserving special mention were: I AM A WOMAN and WOMEN IN THE SHADOWS by Ann Bannon, EDGE OF TWILIGHT by Paula Christian, CHRIS by Randy Salem, THE GIRLS IN 3-B by Valerie Taylor, AMONG WOMEN ONLY by Cesare Pavese, ODD GIRL and THE THIRD SEX by Artemis Smith, THE ODD ONES by Edwina Marks, and FIRST PERSON...THIRD SEX by Sloane M. Britain.

Apparently the subject is receiving rapidly increasing

attention and publishers, large and small, are responding with a flood of all types of books. The poorest are so poor they are indescribable, yet even the cheapest paperback publishers are issuing some quite well written, fairly realistic and highly sympathetic novels. The trend, began a year or two ago, of having a Lesbian appear as a central character in a novel not dealing with Lesbinanism per se is continuing and this is a good sign as we are all part of society and not just part of our own group.

One unfortunate note is the disappearance of the "Lesbian Romance" novel. Only four of this year's 52 novels can be considered romantic and none compare with the classic few of years past. On the plus side however is the amazing amount of tolerance, acceptance and sympathy in this year's fiction. These factors of both quantity and quality coupled with less biased treatment make 1959 a memorable year in Lesbian literature.

1959 Titles

IN APPROXIMATE CHRONOLOGICAL ORDER INCLUDING AUTHOR, TITLE AND PUBLISHER. THE COPYRIGHT OF 1959 IS UNDERSTOOD UNLESS SOME NOTATION IS INDICATED. A STAR BESIDE THE PUBLISHER INDICATES A HARDBACK BOOK, ALL THE REST ARE PAPERBACK ORIGINALS.

AUTHOR	TITLE	PUBLISHER
ANN BANNON	I AM A WOMAN	FAWCETT
PAULA CHRISTIAN	EDGE OF TWILIGHT	FAWCETT
HELEN NIELSEN	THE FIFTH CALLER	MORROW*
SHELDON LORD	A STRANGE KIND OF LOVE	TOWER
RANDY SALEM	CHRIS	BEACON
DAVID GARNETT	A SHOT IN THE DARK	LITTLE, BROWN*
VALERIE TAYLOR	THE GIRLS IN 3-B	FAWCETT
BEN HECHT	THE SENSUALISTS	MESSNER*(ALSO DELL)
ELEAZAR LIPSKY	THE SCIENTISTS	APPLETON*
FLORENCE STONEBRAKER	SINFUL DESIRES	BEDSIDE BOOKS
CESARE PAVESE	AMOUNG WOMEN ONLY	NOONDAY* (QUALITY PAPERBACK)

MARK RYAN	TWISTED LOVES	BEDSIDE BOOKS
ARTEMIS SMITH	ODD GIRL	BEACON
STEPHEN MARLOWE	HOMICIDE IS MY GAME	FAWCETT
EDWINA MARKS	THE ODD ONES	BERKELEY
MAX DAY	SO NICE, SO WILD	STANLEY LIBRARY
MARCH HASTINGS	DEMANDS OF THE FLESH	NEWSSTAND LIBRARY
MARCH HASTINGS	OBSESSED	NEWSSTAND LIBRARY
FLETCHER FLORA	TAKE ME HOME	MONARCH
KERMIT WELLES	REFORMATORY WOMEN	BEDSIDE BOOKS
ZENA GARRETT	THE HOUSE IN THE MULBERRY TREE	RANDOM HOUSE*
SYLVIA BERKMAN	BLACKBERRY WILDERNESS	DOUBLEDAY*
DON MORRO	THE VIRGIN	BEACON
BARRY DEVLIN	TOO MANY WOMEN	BEACON (1955 RELEASED 1959)
SCOTT STONE	THE DIVORCEES	BEACON (1953 RELEASED1959)
SCOTT STONE	MARGO	BEACON (1955 RELEASED 1959)
HENRI CROUZAT	THE ISLAND AT THE END OF THE WORLD	DUELL, SLOANE*
RALPH DEAN	ONE KIND OF WOMAN	BEACON
ANN BANNON	WOMEN IN THE SHADOWS	FAWCETT
KAY ADDAMS	QUEER PATTERNS	BEACON
PETER DE VRIES	THE TENTS OF WICKEDNESS	LITTLE, BROWN*
MARJORIE LEE	THE LION HOUSE	RINEHART*
SLOANE M. BRITAIN	THE NEEDLE	BEACON
SHIRLEY JACKSON	THE HAUNTING OF HILL HOUSE	VIKING*
GWYNNE WIMBERLY	ONE TOUCH OF ECSTASY	FREDERICK FELL*
LESLEY EVANS	STRANGE ARE THE WAYS OF LOVE	FAWCETT
SLOANE M. BRITAIN	FIRST PERSON...THIRD SEX	NEWSSTAND LIBRARY
BARRE LYNDON	THE MAN WHO COULD CHEAT DEATH	AVON
IAN FLEMING	GOLDFINGER	MACMILLAN*
JONATHAN CRAIG	CASE OF THE VILLAGE TRAMP	FAWCETT
DORENE CLARK	THE EXOTIC AFFAIR	MAGNET BOOKS
JOSEPH KESSEL	THE LION	KNOPF*
BARRY DEVLIN	CHEATING WIVES	BEACON (1955 RELEASED 1959)
NINA FAREWELL	SOMEONE TO LOVE	MESSNER*

TOM T. CHAMALES	GO NAKED IN THE WORLD	SCRIBNER'S*
COLIN MACINNES	ABSOLUTE BEGINNERS	MACGIBBON & KEE* (LONDON)
TERESKA TORRES	THE GOLDEN CAGE	DIAL*
ARTEMIS SMITH	THE THIRD SEX	BEACON
CHET KINSEY	KATE	BEACON
SHELDON LORD	69 BARROW STREET	TOWER
JOE WEISS & RALPH DEAN	ANYTHING GOES	BEDSIDE BOOKS
CAL ANTON	THE PRIVATE LIFE OF A STRIP-TEASE GIRL	BEACON

Lesbos on Vinylite

By Forrest J. Ackerman

The essence of Lesbiana has been lacquered! An LP (for Lesbian's Prayer) that would surely have set the heart of Sappho singing! A hallowed half hour that transports the empathetic listener backward thru time and space to fabled Mytilene, capital city of Lesbos in the 6th century B.C., as the sapphire needle strikes sapphic sparks from the microgrooves of the hi-fi recording #112 of Collector's Records, called:

<u>3 Oboli to Aphrodite!</u>

The lutes of Lesbos, the flutes and the Aeolian harps meld in a melodic background that charms the ear as the eyes go wide to hear the spoken declaration: "Why I have become Lesbian." And the answer: "Oh, Bilitis, thou asked it."

These are poems of the passion of woman for woman as sensitively revealed by Pierre Louys, chronicler of the Sapphic sisterhood's secret heart-trysts, recorded with imagination, daring and warmth. A dozen years ago when, seeking the valence of Radclyffe Hall, I composed "The Night You Were Wed" and "My Friend, the Night" for THE

LADDER'S predecessor "Vice Versa", a recording of this nature (and stature) was a distant dream. The melodious Melachrino Orchestra and charming "Cherise" were unknown.

Cherise? The anonymous She whose sultry, langorous, caressing voice breathes the dreamworld words of Goddess Diane. No words can describe the ardor of her delivery, the depth of her projection, the rightness of her rich, rare performance. Hers might be the wondrous voice of a Minga maid, of Catherine Moore creation, or the intimate whispers of Santhu, echoing in the ensorcelled chambers of Merritt's Dragon Glass.

Who is Cherise? "Are you haunted by a persistent feeling of familiarity?" asks the album's jacket. "Cherise is the pseudonym for a very well known stage, radio and TV actress." Her liquid tones lave the enchanted eardrum like an anglicized Marlene Dietrich, a Lizabeth Scott sans identifying lisp. Cherise is Astarte of the Night, Mother of the World.

In the 30 enthralling minutes of 3 OBOLI TO APHRODITE you become privy to the 12 Desires of Aphrodite, are counselled "what to do if thou wouldst be loved by a young woman," breathe the heady bouquet of "flowers of flesh", and are guided by a feminine hand into "the little garden of Bilitis, which has only one fig - but it is good."

This treasured measure of sound and speech consummately evokes visions of all that is bodily beautiful in Lesbianism while the enraptured ear is soothed with the soft sounds of wind and reed. A recorded masterpiece for the Radclyffe Hall of Fame.

SEE HOW I WRITE THEM DOWN
EACH WORD SO;
WHEN YOU HAVE THEM ALL
THERE WILL BE NOTHING MORE FOR ME TO GIVE.

JOANNE CONNORS

Sequel to "Gay" Bar Problem

(Continued from page 9)

discrimination against homosexuals as a class - not because of what they do, but because of what they are."

PROTEST AGAINST SOLE AUTHORITY OF ABC

The petition before the higher court further protested, "The Vallerga dicta has expanded the Director's discretion beyond any visible bounds, and leaves the courts and the Appeals Board entirely impotent to check excesses and the abuse of such power. So far as homosexual bars are concerned, he will become an autocratic czar, unfettered by any meaningful rules and restrictions other than his own personal prejudices and antagonism against such bars. The Stoumen v. Reilly decision was carefully worded to preclude the possibility of personal abuse or power, arbitrariness, personal prejudices, and discrimination against licensees - but these protections may well be removed by the Vallerga dicta.

"It would be utterly naive to believe that the Director will exercise restraint with respect to such bars. The formidable 'witch hunt' which has been taking place ever since Section 24200 (e) was adopted undoubtedly will be transformed into a true Inquisition against such bars, which the Department is determined to eradicate from the scene. The Vallerga dicta gives the green light to such wholesale liquidations."

THE BAR OWNER'S DILEMMA

Mr. Lowenthal pointed out the predicament of the bar owner in separating conduct constituting a 'display of a sexual desire' from that which may be simply an eccentricity, lack of good taste, or lack of good manners on the part of his patrons.

The upshot of such a dilemma would probably be, he said, refusal of service to any individual the bartender thought to be a homosexual, or poor service in order to discourage

him from patronizing the bar.

"Thus, a constitutional right, loudly proclaimed and reaffirmed in clear judicial language, is whittled away indirectly by suppression of every act that would manifest or establish that the person exercising the constitutional right is within the class of society protected thereby."

COURT REFUSES TO ALTER RULING

On January 20th the State Supreme Court denied the Vallerga petition to alter the language of the December opinion or to grant the petitioners and appellants a rehearing.

In Mr. Lowenthal's own words, "The Vallerga obiter dicta will become known as 'Oh, bitter dicta!"

--Del Martin

Editorial - Another Milestone Coming

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 4)

BY THE DOB (SEE THE SEPTEMBER 1959 LADDER FOR THE RESULTS ON THE QUESTIONNAIRE TO WOMEN.)

AUTHOR'S ROUNDTABLE.

"WHY THE LESBIAN" - A THEORETICAL DISCUSSION BY A PANEL OF WELL-KNOWN PSYCHIATRISTS AND PSYCHOLOGISTS.

"THE GAY BAR IN THE COURTS" - ADDRESS BY MORRIS LOWENTHAL, SAN FRANCISCO ATTORNEY.

"CAN THE PRACTICING HOMOSEXUAL BE ACCEPTED BY THE CHURCH?" ADDRESS BY PROTESTANT CLERGYMAN.

"LEGAL PROBLEMS OF LESBIAN COUPLES" - KENNETH ZWERIN, SAN FRANCISCO ATTORNEY.

"CHANGING SEX LAWS" - ADDRESS BY A MEMBER OF THE CALIFORNIA STATE LEGISLATURE.

AS INDICATED, THE PROGRAM IS STILL IN ITS TENTATIVE STAGES. HOWEVER, THE FORMAT WILL REMAIN SUBSTANTIALLY AS LISTED ABOVE.

PRICE FOR THE FULL DAY'S ACTIVITIES ON SATURDAY, MAY 28, WILL BE $12.50 PER PERSON. THIS INCLUDES THE LUNCHEON AND BANQUET, BUT NOT THE COCKTAIL HOUR - YOU'RE ON YOUR OWN THERE.

ADVANCE REGISTRATION

ADVANCE REGISTRATIONS ARE NOW BEING TAKEN, AND WE ARE ASKING THAT ALL PLANNING TO ATTEND (AND WE HOPE ALL ARE) SEND US A DEPOSIT OF AT LEAST $5.00 BY MARCH 15. BALANCE SHOULD BE PAID PRIOR TO CONVENTION TIME.

SUNDAY, MAY 29 - DOB BUSINESS MEETING FROM 9 A.M. TIL ? - FOR MEMBERS ONLY. THIS WILL BE FOLLOWED BY A VISIT TO DOB NATIONAL HEADQUARTERS AND AN INFORMAL, DUTCH-TREAT DINNER.

MONDAY, MAY 30 - CONTINENTAL BREAKFAST TO BE GIVEN BY THE SAN FRANCISCO CHAPTER OF DOB. THIS WILL BE FOLLOWED IN THE AFTERNOON BY A SIGHTSEEING TOUR FOR OUT-OF-TOWNERS, WITH CARS FURNISHED BY SAN FRANCISCO MEMBERS.

SAN FRANCISCO BOASTS MANY HOTELS AND MOTELS, INCLUDING THE WHITCOMB HOTEL. FOR THOSE WOMEN WHO WISH TO TAKE "POTLUCK", THE SAN FRANCISCO MEMBERS CORDIALLY EXTEND THEIR HOSPITALITY. IF YOU HAVE SLEEPING BAGS, PLEASE BRING THEM. AND PLEASE LET US KNOW AS SOON AS POSSIBLE WHEN YOU WILL ARRIVE, AND HOW. FURTHER INFORMATION MAY BE OBTAINED FROM NATIONAL HEADQUARTERS.

WE URGE AS MANY OF YOU AS POSSIBLE TO ATTEND - MEMBERS AND NON-MEMBERS, MEN AND WOMEN. WE FEEL WE WILL HAVE AN OUTSTANDING PROGRAM OF INTEREST TO ALL. YOUR INDICATION OF INTEREST WILL DICTATE THE FINALIZATION OF OUR PLANS.

THIS WILL BE DOB'S FIRST VENTURE INTO THE LIMELIGHT, AND WE WILL NEED THE SUPPORT OF ALL OUR FRIENDS TO MAKE IT A SUCCESS.

- PHYLLIS LYON

LESBIANA

128. DEMANDS OF THE FLESH BY MARCH HASTINGS, NEWSTAND LIBRARY, 1959.

ELLEN TENDLER, A YOUNG AND OVERLY PASSIONATE WIDOW, BECOMES INVOLVED WITH THREE MEN AND ONE WOMAN DURING HER SEARCH FOR LOVE. THE LESBIAN, NITA FROBISH, IS WELL DRAWN FOR THIS SORT OF PAPERBACK. NITA LOVES ELLEN BUT REALIZES THAT ELLEN IS NOT CAPABLE OF RETURNING HER LOVE. NITA HELPS ELLEN STAY ON AN EVEN KEEL AND GIVES HER ENOUGH FRIENDSHIP AND LOVE TO BALANCE OUT THE HURTS ELLEN RECEIVES. NOT WELL ENOUGH WRITTEN TO COUNT FOR MUCH, HOWEVER, THE LESBIAN LOVE SCENES ARE NICELY HANDLED.

129. UNCHARTED SEAS BY ERIC WARD. PARIS, OBELISK PRESS, 1937. (AVAILABLE SECOND HAND VERY REASONABLY.)

PERCEPTIVE, FEMININE NOVEL WITH AS MUCH VALUE AS THE NOVEL DIANA AND SOMEWHAT BETTER WRITTEN. DIANA BELLEW, UNHAPPILY MARRIED AND VERY LONELY, FALLS IN LOVE WITH THREE DIFFERENT WOMEN IN THREE DIFFERENT WAYS OVER AN EIGHT YEAR PERIOD. THE FIRST REJECTS HER, THE SECOND DIES AND THE THIRD IS AS BOUND BY RESPONSIBILITY AS DIANA HERSELF. ALTHOUGH THE ENDING IS NOT HAPPY, ONE IS LEFT WITH THE FEELING DIANA WILL SOMEDAY BE HAPPY AND, BEST OF ALL, THE NOVEL IS REWARDING EMOTIONALLY. THE LOVE SCENES ARE BEAUTIFUL AND TASTEFUL. A MUST BOOK.

130. A STRANGE KIND OF LOVE BY SHELDON LORD. MIDTOWN (TOWER) PUBLICATIONS, 1959, #9.

APPARENTLY THIS IS A NEW PAPERBACK PUBLISHER ALONG THE SAME LINES AS BEACON BOOKS. THIS CONCERNS PULP WRITER DAN LARKIN AND HIS MISTRESS MARCIA. MARCIA IS AN INDEPENDENT GAL AND WANTS NO STRINGS IN HER RELATIONSHIP WITH DAN. TO PROVE THE POINT, EVEN TO HERSELF, SHE SPENDS SOME GRAPHICALLY DESCRIBED HOURS IN THE ARMS OF CAROL. BOTH WOMEN ARE DESCRIBED AS QUITE FEMININE, AND THE STORY OBVIOUSLY WAS INTENDED FOR A MALE AUDIENCE. FAST MOVING, NOT TOO UNPLEASANT, AND AN ALMOST BELIEVABLE ENDING.

READERS RESPOND

"ONE DOESN'T OFTEN HAVE A CHANCE TO EXPRESS ONE'S VIEWS TO THE PUBLIC ON THE SUBJECT OF LESBIANISM OR HOMOSEXUALITY OF ANY KIND. NOW, AS I TRY TO WRITE I FIND IT DIFFICULT BECAUSE OF NEVER HAVING EVEN BREATHED THIS TYPE OF EXISTENCE TO ACQUAINTANCES, FRIENDS OR FAMILY.

"WHEN I FIRST LEARNED THAT THERE WAS SUCH A PUBLICATION AS THE LADDER I WAS MOST EAGER TO BE A SUBSCRIBER AND HAVE THEREFORE BEEN RECEIVING THE PRINTED ISSUES FOR ALMOST A YEAR. I HAVE FOUND THE STORIES DELIGHTFUL, THE INFORMATION ENLIGHTENING AND THE COMMENTS INTERESTING.

"I, LIKE MOST OTHERS, LIVE TWO LIVES, ONE FOR THE BENEFIT OF THE PUBLIC AND THE OTHER FOR MYSELF. THE MAJORITY OF THE SO-CALLED 'NORMALS' WILL NOT ACCEPT US ON ANY BASIS AND SO WE LIVE IN A SORT OF MAKE BELIEVE WORLD, A SECRET, EXCITING WORLD, BUT A BIT FRIGHTENING TOO. WHEN THE LADDER COMES TO MY DOOR ONCE A MONTH I LIVE IN THAT SECRET WORLD FOR APPROXIMATELY 20 OR 25 MINUTES WHILE I READ EACH AND EVERY WORD AND MARVEL AT THE WORK THAT IS BEING DONE TO ALLEVIATE THE PAIN OF FALSENESS THAT MOST OF US ENDURE JUST FOR THE SAKE OF NOT BEING CALLED QUEER.

"IT IS GOOD TO KNOW THAT PEOPLE OF RENOWN, DOCTORS, LAWYERS, JUDGES, ETC., ARE TRYING DESPERATELY TO SEE HOMOSEXUALITY IN THE RIGHT LIGHT AND TO TRY TO CONVINCE THE REST OF THE WORLD THAT THE HOMOSEXUAL HAS A LIFE TO LIVE AND THAT IN 99% OF THE CASES HE OR SHE IS NOT HURTING ANYONE ELSE BY THINKING ALONG DIFFERENT LINES IN RESPECT TO LOVE AND COMPANIONSHIP.

"I KNOW IT'S GOING TO BE A LONG, HARD PULL BEFORE WE ARE ACCEPTED AS WE REALLY ARE. YOU AND I, AND OUR CONTEMPORARIES, WILL PROBABLY NEVER SEE THE FREE WORLD WE ARE SEEKING. THERE HAVE BEEN PIONEERS IN ALL CAUSES AND I SINCERELY HOPE THAT YOU, WHO ARE PIONEERING IN THIS PARTICULAR CAUSE, WILL EVENTUALLY WIN SO THAT THOSE WHO COME AFTER US WILL HAVE A HAPPIER WORLD TO LIVE IN.

"LIKING TO READ THINGS AND THOUGHTS I AM FAMILIAR WITH, I NATURALLY ENJOY GOOD NOVELS ABOUT THIS KIND OF LIFE. 'LESBIANA' HAS BEEN VERY HELPFUL ALONG THIS LINE. MY ONLY WISH IN THIS INSTANCE IS THAT YOU WOULD GIVE THE ADDRESS AND THE NAME OF THE PUBLISHER IN ALL CASES. IT IS IMPOSSIBLE TO FIND THESE BOOKS IN MOST BOOK STORES, AND IF ONE DOES FIND A COPY ONE IS AFRAID TO BUY IT FOR FEAR SOMEONE YOU KNOW MIGHT SEE YOU MAKING THE PURCHASE.

"I HAVE FULLY ENJOYED THE SHORT STORIES, ESPECIALLY THOSE WITH THE HAPPY ENDING. WE ALL KNOW FULL WELL THAT LIFE IS NOT A BOWL OF CHERRIES AND THAT ALL RELATIONSHIPS, NORMAL AND OTHERWISE, DO NOT ALWAYS END UP HAPPILY. BUT WHY NOT HAVE STORIES END THAT WAY. THEY GIVE A PERSON HOPE FOR THE FUTURE, FOR A LIFE, FOR HAPPINESS."

"NIKI", MINNESOTA

* * * * *

"THIS IS AN ANSWER TO M.G. OF CALIFORNIA. IN THE ARTICLE OF MINE WHICH YOU CITED I STATED I HAD READ OVER 300 NOVELS ON MALE HOMOSEXUALITY. AT THE TIME I ORIGINALLY WROTE THAT ARTICLE THIS WAS TRUE. HOWEVER I HAVE NOW READ OVER 450 BOOKS (NOVELS, DRAMAS, POETRY) ON MALE HOMOSEXUALITY AND I HAVE RECORDS OF THE EXISTENCE OF ABOUT 700 TITLES IN ENGLISH ALONE, NOT COUNTING THE MANY FRENCH, GERMAN AND ITALIAN TITLES YET UNTRANSLATED. AN EXCELLENT BIBLIOGRAPHY ON MALE HOMOSEXUALITY LISTING OVER 600 SUCH TITLES NOT INCLUDING ANY TECHNICAL OR SCIENTIFIC WORKS AT ALL IS OBTAINABLE FOR $1.75. THIS IS ENTITLED THE HOMOSEXUAL IN LITERATURE BY NOEL I. GARDE, VILLAGE PRESS, 1959. IT CAN BE OBTAINED FROM THE VILLAGE THEATER CENTER, 116 CHRISTOPHER ST., NEW YORK 14.

NOW, ON LESBIANISM THERE ARE IN EXISTENCE ABOUT 500 TITLES IN ENGLISH AND PERHAPS 200 OR MORE IN OTHER LANGUAGES NOT YET TRANSLATED. I OWN UPWARDS OF 400 AND I HAVE READ OTHERS I HAVE NOT PURCHASED. THE AUTHORITATIVE WORK ON LESBIAN LITERATURE IS SEX VARIANT WOMEN IN LITERATURE BY JEANNETTE H. FOSTER. (DOB WILL HAVE AUTOGRAPHED COPIES OF THIS FINE WORK AVAILABLE IN THE NEAR FUTURE. WATCH THE LADDER FOR DETAILS. ED.)

THE EDITORIAL NOTE WHICH FOLLOWS YOUR LETTER IN THE DECEMBER LADDER LISTS MARION ZIMMER BRADLEY'S CHECKLIST OF LESBIAN LITERATURE. HER ADDRESS, HOWEVER, IS NOW BOX #158, ROCHESTER, TEXAS.

THE CHECKLIST CAME OUT EARLY IN 1959 AND IS SOON TO BE SUPERCEDED BY A NEW, LARGER AND BETTER LIST WHICH WILL BE CO-EDITED BY MRS. BRADLEY AND MYSELF (UNDER THE NAME OF GENE DAMON)."

LENNOX STRONG, KANSAS

* * * * *

"I FIND YOUR MAGAZINE VERY REFRESHING AND CONSIDER MYSELF VERY FORTUNATE IN BEING ABLE TO BE A SUBSCRIBER TO IT. DUE TO VERY DIFFERENT, AND I MIGHT ADD DISAGREEABLE, CIRCUMSTANCES HERE IN CINCINNATI I FIND IT WISER NOT TO TRY AND FIND OTHERS LIKE YOURS TRULY, SO IT IS WITH REGRETS THAT I CANNOT AT THIS TIME ADD NEW MEMBERS TO YOUR LIST. BUT I WOULD LIKE TO HELP, SO I AM ENCLOSING A CHECK FOR $15.00 FOR BACK ISSUES OF THE LADDER.

"I WISH TO SAY AGAIN, THANKS, AND KEEP UP THE GOOD WORK. I SHALL HELP WHEN POSSIBLE.

F.C., OHIO

* * * * *

"I ENJOY MY SUBSCRIPTION VERY MUCH. IT IS A SUBJECT VERY DEAR TO MY HEART...AND SO REASSURING TO KNOW OF OTHERS IN THE SAME BOAT. MY ONLY DISAPPOINTMENT IS THAT THERE IS NO CHAPTER OF DOB IN CINCINNATI. I AM QUITE SHY, AND NOT THE BAR TYPE, EVEN IF I KNEW OF A 'GAY BAR' (BUT I DON'T). UNFORTUNATELY I HAVE NO FRIENDS LOCALLY IN THE SAME CIRCUMSTANCES, AND SORT OF FEEL LIKE A 'DUCK OUT OF WATER'. WHAT DO OTHERS DO IN THE SAME SITUATION? I AM NOT 'OBVIOUS'. PERHAPS YOUR READERS CAN OFFER SOME SUGGESTIONS AS HOW TO MEET OTHERS WHO WOULD HAVE A SIMILAR PROBLEM."

R.M., OHIO

* * * * *

"I CAN SEE WHY YOU WERE UNHAPPY OVER THE SMALL NUMBER OF RETURNS (TO THE SOCIOLOGICAL QUESTIONNAIRE). YOUR SUBSCRIBER LIST IS QUITE A SELF-SELECTED ELITE, ANYHOW, AND A SELECT 1/4 OF AN ALREADY SELECT GROUP DOESN'T GIVE MUCH OF A SAMPLE. I THINK YOU WERE WISE TO KEEP YOUR INTERPRETATION OF DATA MOSTLY DESCRIPTIVE

AND HOLD THE INFERENCES ABOUT HOMOSEXUALS AS A WHOLE, LET ALONE THE GENERAL POPULATION, TO A MINIMUM.

"ACCORDING TO THE READERSHIP AND COMMUNICATIONS PEOPLE, JUST THE FACT THAT A PERSON SUBSCRIBES TO A MAGAZINE - ANY MAGAZINE- PUTS HIM IN A CATEGORY WHICH AUTOMATICALLY CONFERS ON HIM MOST OF THE SOCIAL POSITION YOUR DATA SHOWED: MORE EDUCATION, MORE MONEY, 'COMMUNITY LEADERSHIP' AS EVIDENCED BY PROPERTY HOLDING, ASSOCIATION MEMBERSHIP, ETC."

D.C., ILLINOIS

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